

# PROPOSALS

CLXVI

Humbly Offer'd

To the Consideration of this Present

## PARLIAMENT.

Being a Soft and Easie Way  
For the Raifing of

## M O N E Y,

IN ORDER

To the Perpetual Maintaining and Defending  
of this KINGDOM.

Licensed, and Entered according to Order, 1689.



It is never to be imagined but there will be some Contriving Heads still on work, for Innovation in all Kingdoms; And the certain way to undermine the *Common-wealths-Man*, and secure *Royal-Government* in This, is, To consider what those Publick Things, which the People do hope for, or ever expected by a *Common-wealth*; and to have the King and his *Parliament* to be the Proposers and Executors themselves of all that *Good* to the People.

The Grand Thing worthy the Design of every *Publick Spirit* in its Season, were a *Register of Estates*: Such a *Register*, driven up to the Head, should bring all Possessions of Houses and Lands to one Tenure; that is *Holding* all of that *Register*, Enfranchised from whatsoever is *Servile* bondage. The doing of this at one Dash, would put an end to all Contentions and Suits about the Titles of Mens Possessions, to the Worlds end; which were a thing of more rare Advantage, out of doubt, to the Community, than all whatsoever the whole *Series* of other *Kings* and *Parliaments* have done for the Land, since *Edward the Confessor*. Again, into this *Register*, as all Possessions, so all the *Moneys* of the Nation should be brought; no Debt else being to be allowed by Law: By which means the *Common-wealth* shall be immediately made as Rich again as it is; receiving its Emolument of all the Money, as well as the Estates, that every Man hath.

Unto this *Registry*, therefore, let us suppose, that so much *per Annum* (conceive what a *House* Commons shall please) in the Pound (of both)

to be paid as *Quit-Rent*, for the Standing Revenues of the *Common-wealth*, distinct from the *KING's* own Revenues left proper to Himself. Out of this Rent and Treasure, yearly growing, and still extant, should any *Parliament* that is called, give their Supply for Emergent Occasions: Here would be no Trouble, then, about raising of future Taxes, but Consultation only to be had, what was fit to be done, and spared from the *Common-Bank*: For this Rent being the *Publick-Stock*, (that is, the Nations Money, not the *KING's*) should be ordered to the setting the Poor at Work, and accommodating the Trades; while the Increase and Gain were the *Communities*, and *Disposable* only by a *Parliament*, as the Purse of the Kingdom is.

These are the small *Politicks* I have to offer, and would drive on; That every *Bee* be Contributory to the *Hive*, and what is not profitable to the *Hive*, be not allowed good for the *Bee*.

Against this *Register of Estates*, there will be Combined a threefold Interest: Of some *Lawyers*, Of the *Usurer*, and Of the *Broken-Merchant*. The Selfish *Lawyers* will give twenty Reasons against it; but the Bottom of them all will be this only, Then Men are not like to go to Law, as they now do. The *Usurer* will cry out; By this means every Bodies Estate shall be known; and what a world of Hurt will ensue thereupon? But the Substance only must come to this, That when he hath Five or Ten thousand Pounds perhaps at Use, he should not now go *Scot-free* any longer, as he hath done, never to pay a Penny to the *PUBLICK*; when the Poor Man, who hath a Living

Living but of Ten or Twenty Pounds a Year in all the World, must be Taxed to the full, and at so much the greater Rate, for the bearing his Burden for him. The *Broken-Tradeſman* likewise will exclaim; *This will hinder Trade; Many now live on their Credit; but when the Register ſhall tell all, they ſhall not be Truſted.* The Sum of which indeed is, That then no one Perſon, by his being a *Knave*, ſhall be longer in a Capacity to undo ſo many *Honeſt Men* when he Breaks, as now they are uſed to do. By all which, *His Maſteſty*, and a *Parliament* may here, at one view, be pleaſed to ſee, how theſe Reaſons and Interests, which will be urged againſt this Excellent Thing, ſhall be found the very Ground and Reaſon its ſelf irrefragable, upon which it is to be raiſed and upholden.

Befides, There is One Advantage above All, which perhaps, never yet came into any Men's Thoughts; and that is, That by this way, there ſhall a new Stock be brought up in the Nation to Trade upon, when the Moneys running are drained Low; to wit, the *Stock of Honeſty*: for when all Mens Conditions ſhall lie open, the Truth that a Man hath for the Future, ſhall be on his *Honeſty*, and not on a *Deceitful Reputation* of more than he is Worth: Which will not only make every one ſtrive to preſerve That, (which is of unexpreſſible Concern to the whole) but ſhall put it in the power of every Man to have at firſt wherewithal to Live upon; until, by his own Fault or Falſhood, he hath himſelf forfeited the ſame. And for this purpoſe, are there ſome Rules to be further thought upon, as to a before intimated Publick Encouragement to the Induſtrious Beginner, and hopeful Man; who will never dare to run Lavish, while ſuch a Bridle is held upon him, as the View of all that will.

There may be happily ſeveral Things objected, in reference to Propriety, and particular Concern; which ſhall not yet depreſs this Motion, but Advance and Improve it. There is therefore an *Eminent Dominion* (let us know) in the *Supreme Authority* of every State, which in this Realm doth lie in the *KING*, and his *Parliament*, not Severally, but as *One Corporation joyn'tly*) over the Poſſeſſions, Goods, and Commodities of all Perſons; as the Chief Writers of *Politics* do tell us. So that, if there be any thing Grievous to the *Generality*, or Inconvenient to the *Whole*, it is no Wrong unto private Men, for the *Parliament* to remove it, though it cannot be done without their Loſs. For, that Propriety which we call *Meum* and *Tuum*, is always to be underſtood between One Man and Another, and not between any Man and the *Publick*; whoſe greater Concern muſt over-rule All, according to that *Fundamental Juſtice*, upon which all *Policy* is built and maintained.

As one of the Chiefest Things, then, which are deſirable amongſt what is wanting in this Kingdom, I have ſaid, is a *Register* mentioned: So, among ſome few *Grievances* there is on the Subject, One of the Chief, fit to be Redreſſed, is that Piece of the *Norman Yoke*, which lies upon thoſe *Lands* they call *Copy-holds of Inheritance*, that are

*Heriotable*, and the *Fine* uncertain, at the Will of the Lord.

The moſt *Radical Advantage* the *Commons* of England have above the People in other States, does conſiſt in their Liberty (by the Conſtitution of the Land,) to chooſe their *Representatives* in *Parliament*; All the *Commons* in the Realm are preſented in *Parliament*, by the *Knights and Burgeſſes*, (ſays Sir *Edward Cook*) and are called *Tout le Communalte de la Terra, il'onque ſumme*. In the *Preface* of *Weſtmiſter* the Firſt: And what an unhappy thing is it, that, for want of ſuch a *Register*, a Man of One Hundred Pounds a Year, of his own *Inheritance*, whoſe Land is *Copy*, ſhall not have a *Vote* in chooſing a *Knight* of the *Shire* into the  *Houſe*; when he that hath but Forty *Shillings* a Year in all the World (*Free*) hath, and ought to have, according to the Uſage of the Land? Neither is it indeed, tolerable, that there ſhould be ſuch *Oaths* taken, as there are commonly, to the *Lords of Mannors*, which no Conſcientious or Ingenuous Spirit can chooſe but Regret unto any, but their *Sovereign Lord the KING* only. There is no Reaſon a Man of Eſtate ſhould Die, and his Lands be free from Debts, only from the *Servile Tenure* of them. Neither is it fit a Man of greater *Abilities* and *Manners* ſhould be exempt for *Service* at the *Aſſizes*, and other *Courts*, and the *Poorer* and *leſs Able*, be made to *Serve*, only becauſe the One's Land is *Free*, and the Other's *Copy-hold*.

If it were reaſonable in the *Lords* of ſuch Mannors, who had Land in *Capite*, to deſire of the *KING* a Relief, in the Caſe of *Wardſhip*, would it not be juſt in the *KING* to Exped and Reſolve They ſhould do to Others, as they think fit He ſhould do to Them: Suppoſe then a *Statute*, *Primo Guilielmi & Mariz*, Be it Enacted, That all Lands which are *Inheritance*, and yet *Copy-hold*, *Fine* uncertain, be for ever hereby *Expropriated*, all *Heriots* henceforth *Aboliſhed*, and that every Tenant be made Debtor in lieu hereof to the *Lords* of ſuch Mannors, in the Value of Two Years Purchase the Full-Rent, or Forty Years Purchase the Quit-Rent, (at the Choice of the Tenant) to be paid in Two Years, and to be Recovered by the ſame *Statute*. Who can ſay, that any ſuch Grateful Act of this Nature, hath paſſed ſince *William the Conqueror*? And who can judge it not fit, that when the *Jews* had their *Jubilee* once in Fifty Years, the *Engliſh People* and *Community* ſhould have one in Six Hundred and upwards ſince his Conqueſt.

Believe it, Thoſe Things which are a Leaven in the Hearts of Men to wiſh for a Change, (as there was nothing in the *Associate Counties* more prevalent, when Time ſerved, than this) do require the *States man's* Prevention, and kindly Reformation. The Summ whereof, in this *Register of Eſtates*, might be comprized; but that a *Brief Eſſay*, and a *Fiſt Draught* only is intended in this Paper, and not that full *Pourtraiture*, which cannot at one Sitting, but by Second and Third Thoughts, and the *Admonitions* alſo of divers *Adviſers*, (who may hereby be excited to *Commence them*) receive its Perfection.